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FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAKO20//
TO GOMPERT/BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY
ZEM
T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD
DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS VIA BLACK PATCH WH42901

TOHAKO20

OCTOBER 25, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

GVN INFORMATION MINISTER NHA RESIGNS: EMBASSY SAIGON REPORTS THAT GVN INFORMATION MINISTER HOANG DUC NHA HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION ALONG WITH THREE OTHER MINISTERS. NHA IS PRESIDENT THIEU'S COUSIN AND FORMER PRIVATE SECRETARY. HE HAD APPARENTLY LOST ALL INFLUENCE WITH THIEU AND HAD BEEN BLAMED FOR THE MVD-HANDLING OF SOME OF THE RECENT ANTI-THIEU PROTESTS. NHA'S DEPARTURE MAY GAIN THIEU SOME SHORT-TERM RESPITE FROM CRITICISM, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THIEU'S CURRENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS. (QUINN/STEARMAN)

LATINS REACT TO YOUR QUITO ABSENCE: LATIN AMERICAN OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT YOU CANNOT ATTEND AT LEAST SOME PORTION OF THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN QUITO. SOME FEEL THIS DOWNGRADES THE IMPORTANCE AND LEVEL OF THE MEETING AND DETRACTS FROM THE MOMENTUM OF THE "NEW DIALOG" ESTABLISHED WITH YOU. THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FEELS PARTICULARLY AGGRIEVED AND CHAGRINED BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL ROLE IN DISSUADING VENEZUELA FROM SEEKING EARLY OAS ACTION ON CUBA AND IN ARRANGING FOR THE CURRENT DATE. HE HAS CRITICIZED PUBLICLY YOUR DECISION NOT TO ATTEND. HOWEVER, EMBASSY QUITO REPORTS THAT BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THEY CHARACTERIZED YOUR NONATTENDANCE AS "JUSTIFIED." (LOW)

EC MAY BEGIN TRADE TALKS WITH MEXICO: IN RESPONSE TO A MEXICAN REQUEST LAST MAY FOR AN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE EC, THE EC COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE OPENED WITH A VIEW TOWARD ARRIVING AT A NON-PREFERENTIAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO. MEXICO HAS A BALANCE OF TRADE DEFICIT WITH THE EC. THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL ENVISAGES AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD ENCOMPASS TRADE PROMOTION THROUGH REDUCTION OR REMOVAL OF TARIFF AND NONTARIFF

DOS Review Completed.

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OBSTACLES; INVESTMENT, INDUSTRIAL, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION; AND A FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS CLAUSE TO PROVIDE FOR ANY FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS AND/OR EXPANSION OF THE AGREEMENT. ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND URUGUAY HAVE TRADE AGREEMENTS CURRENTLY IN FORCE WITH THE EC AND ARGENTINA NOW WANTS TO NEGOTIATE A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD REPLACE ITS TRADE AGREEMENT.

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO CURTAIL RIGHTIST TERRORIST ACTIONS: BECAUSE OF RECENT PUBLICITY AND GROWING OPPOSITION OF ARGENTINA'S LARGEST NON-PERONIST POLITICAL PARTY, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CURTAIL SOME OF THE EXTRALEGAL COUNTERTERROR ACTIONS CARRIED ON WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL IN THE NAME OF THE ARGENTINE ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE (AAA). THE ASSASSINATION OF WELL-KNOWN LEFTIST POLITICIANS WILL BE DISCONTINUED AND THE AAA WILL ASSUME A MORE LOW-KEY PROFILE. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT-CONDONED ACTION SQUADS APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE TO ELIMINATE LOWER LEVEL LEFTISTS IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE EXTREMISTS. THE GOVERNMENT IS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO KEEP THE RADICAL CIVIC UNION PARTY IN THE ROLE OF "LOYAL OPPOSITION," RATHER THAN ALIENATING IT INTO OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION. (BROWNELL)

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HIGHLIGHTS OF GISCARD D'ESTAING PRESS CONFERENCE: THE HIGHLIGHTS OF FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 24, AS REPORTED BY AFP, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-- GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS INVITED THE EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO MEET IN PARIS DURING LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER TO DZJINE FUTURE COOPERATION.

-- FRANCE WILL NOT CONFORM WITH THE TREATY TO BE SIGNED BY 12 OIL-IMPORTING NATIONS ON NOVEMBER 12; FRANCE WILL NOT RAISE OBSTACLES TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AN EMERGY AGENCY WHICH THESE 12 NATIONS COULD UNDERTAKE WITHIN THE OECD.

-- FRANCE WILL IMMEDIATELY BEGIN SOUNDING OUT POSSIBLE PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES ON A RESTRICTED ENERGY CONFERENCE EARLY NEXT YEAR WHICH COULD BE ATTENDED BY 10 OR 20 STATES. GISCARD D'ESTAING SAID THAT SUCH A MEETING COULD BE VERY USEFUL IF IT CONSIDERED GUARANTEES PROTECTING THE REVENUES OF OIL-EXPORTING STATES AND ALSO CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE CURRENT PHASE OF ADJUSTMENT IN THE WORLD ECONOMY COULD BE CARRIED OUT.

-- A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NINE SHOULD SPEAK FOR THE EC AT ANY RESTRICTED ENERGY CONFERENCE.

-- IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE MUST BE DEALT WITH. WHILE NOTING THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, GISCARD D'ESTAING STRESSED THAT THE REALITY OF THE PALESTINIAN

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PROBLEM HAD NOT YET BEEN FACED. HE SAID THAT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD HAVE A HOMELAND AND CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD THAT GOAL.

IN AN OPENING STATEMENT, THE FRENCH PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THE PHENOMENA OF THE TIMES ARE "LEADING US PRACTICALLY TO CATASTROPHE." IN THIS CONTEXT HE CITED TRENDS IN SEVERAL AREAS SUCH AS POPULATION, FOOD PRODUCTION AND ENERGY.(GATES)

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